

receiving entrance having a given cross-sectional one-way footprint, correct alignment of the contact with the housing aperture can be assured, leading to greater reliability. Additionally, the one-way footprint allows for a much smaller contact with lesser spacing between the contacts, thus allowing for a greater contact density, a miniaturization of the connector, and an overall reduced cost for manufacturing the connector.

The rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, is respectfully traversed. Electrical contact stops are shown in FIGS. 2-4 and described in the specification on page 6, lines 1-5, and lines 16-18, wherein the specification refers to stop 14a and contact stop 24b. Applicants maintain that “stop 14a” and “contact stop 24b” are “electrical contact stops” and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 should be traversed.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) over *Denlinger et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,071,369), is respectfully traversed. *Denlinger et al.* does not describe an electrical connector which includes a contact receiving entrance having a given cross-sectional one-way footprint. *Denlinger et al.* describes a connector (10) having a terminal position assurance member (12) for insuring the proper positioning of terminals (18) in the connector housing (14). (*Denlinger et al., Abstract*) The assurance member (12) in cooperation with cantilever beams (30) located in the terminal cavities (24) cannot be fully seated in the housing (14) if improperly positioned terminals (18) are holding the beams (30) in a blocking position relative to the assurance member (12). (*Denlinger et al., Abstract*) The assurance member (12) further includes latching arms (60) which must be depressed before the assurance member (12) can be fully seated. (*Denlinger et al., Abstract*)

The claimed invention requires a contact receiving aperture or a contact receiving entrance having a *given cross-sectional, one-way footprint*. *Denlinger et al.* does not disclose a *given cross-sectional, one-way footprint*, and therefore does not anticipate the claims of the present invention. Furthermore, *Denlinger et al.* does not suggest having or forming a contact receiving aperture with a *given cross-sectional, one-way footprint*. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by, nor obvious over the applied reference. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.